



CASINOS CHANGING HANDS

BY MARK SCHLINKMANN
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

The St. Louis area gambling deck was shuffled again Monday when Penn National Gaming — which owns Hollywood Casino and Casino Argosy Alton — said it's buying Pinnacle Entertainment, the operator of the Ameristar and River City casinos.

But the deal also calls for the top grossing casino here, Ameristar in St. Charles, to be sold to a third company, Boyd Gaming Corp. That could head off any objections from antitrust regulators.

The upshot is that no company would control more than half of the metro area's casino market, as is the case now.

Based on reports of year-to-date adjusted gross receipts through November, the beefed-up Penn National would become the St. Louis

IF REGULATORS APPROVE:

Penn National will own Hollywood, River City, Alton Argosy
Boyd Gaming will get Ameristar in St. Charles

RIVER CITY CASINO IN LEMAY



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River City Casino in south St. Louis County is currently owned by Pinnacle.

AMERISTAR IN ST. CHARLES



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Ameristar casino in St. Charles is the St. Louis area's top grossing casino.

market leader, taking over from Pinnacle.

If regulators approve, the revised Penn National lineup here would include Hollywood in Maryland Heights, with 23.2 percent of the area market; River City in Lemay, with 22 percent, and Argosy Alton, with nearly 5 percent.

Ameristar, which would shift to Boyd, has about 26 percent of the market.

Penn National and Pinnacle said in a joint statement that their merged company could save \$100 million a year by eliminating "corporate overhead redundancies" and improving "property level efficiencies."

However, Eric Schippers, a Penn National spokesman, said the company doesn't plan major layoffs at its casinos it will end up with, including the

See CASINOS • Page A7

'MULTIPLE FATALITIES' IN AMTRAK DERAILMENT



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Emergency responders converge on the scene of an Amtrak train derailment Monday in DuPont, Wash. Seventy-seven passengers and seven crew members were aboard when it derailed.

First run along faster route sends train cars onto highway near Seattle; at least 3 dead

BY RACHEL LA CORTE, GILLIAN FLACCUS AND MICHAEL SISAK
Associated Press

DUPONT, WASH. • An Amtrak train making the first run along a faster new route hurtled off an overpass south of Seattle on Monday and spilled some of its cars onto the

highway below, killing at least three people, injuring more than 100 and crushing two vehicles, authorities said.

Attention quickly turned to the train's speed. A website that maps location and speed using data from Amtrak's train tracker app showed the train was going 81.1 mph about

a quarter of a mile from the point where it derailed, where the speed limit is significantly lower.

Seventy-seven passengers and seven crew members were aboard when the train derailed and pulled 13 cars off the tracks. Authorities said

See AMTRAK • Page A8

Clemons pleads guilty to murder



Reginald Clemons



Marlin Gray

Once sentenced to death, he will get 5 life terms for bridge slayings

BY ROBERT PATRICK AND JOEL CURRIER
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS • Reginald Clemons, who was sentenced to death for the 1991 killings of two sisters at the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge before his conviction was overturned in 2015, pleaded guilty to murder and other charges Monday in exchange for multiple sentences of life in prison.

Clemons, 46, pleaded guilty to five counts in all: two counts of second-degree murder, two counts of rape and one count of first-degree robbery.

Clemons admitted that he and three others met Julie Kerry, 20, and Robin Kerry, 19, and their

cousin on the closed bridge late on the night of April 4, 1991.

They robbed the cousin, Thomas Cummins, of cash and a watch, Assistant Attorney General Gregory Goodwin said in court. They then raped the Kerry sisters, forced all three through a manhole and onto the substructure of the bridge and pushed the Kerrys off, he said. They forced Cummins to jump from the bridge at gunpoint, Goodwin said, but Cummins survived.

Julie Kerry's body was found three weeks later in Pemiscot County. Robin Kerry's body was never found.

After Goodwin explained what

See CLEMONS • Page A7



Julie Kerry



Robin Kerry

NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY

Trump's plan casts China, Russia as global competitors

BY ANNE GEARAN
Washington Post

WASHINGTON • President Donald Trump placed himself at the center of a new national security strategy Monday, casting his election as a shift from failed policies pushed by his predecessors and presenting his "America First" doctrine as the organizing principle for U.S. engagement around the world.

In a year-end, campaign-style speech, the president emphasized his view that the United States has been cheated and taken advantage of abroad while its citizens were ill-served at home — a situation he said his security plan would seek to reverse.

"For many years, our citizens watched as Washington politicians presided over one disappoint-

See TRUMP • Page A7

TODAY
59°/37°
PARTLY CLOUDY
TOMORROW
51°/35°
DECREASING CLOUDS
WEATHER
B10



Board wants historic facade preserved • A4
Man who shot at cars gets 15 years • A4
Sitter gets probation in shaking death • A5
Cards' pitching plans are long on hope • B1

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